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Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 780 – Maryland Health Benefit Exchange – State – Based Young Adult Health Insurance Subsidies Pilot Program

Hearing Date: February 18, 2021

Position: Support

The Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC) strongly supports *House Bill 780 – Maryland Health Benefit Exchange – State-Based Young Adult Health Insurance Subsidies Pilot Program*. This bill would establish a subsidy program, focusing on young adults (18-34), the largest cohort of uninsured individuals, to encourage this population to enroll in health insurance and improve the overall uninsured rate in Maryland.

MDAC is the state's leading non- governmental oral health policy and organization, working to improve the oral health of all Marylanders through increased oral health promotion, disease prevention, and access to oral health care. MDAC strongly support HB 780 because it will expand accessibility to dental health care to young adults.

The Individual Subsidy Workgroup published a report in 2020 stating that costs were the greatest barrier for young adults in obtaining medical care. Health insurance subsidies for young adults will encourage those aged between 18 and 34 to receive regular oral health check-ups and take preventative measures to avoid more expensive and serious health conditions later in life.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Suhani Chitalia at schitalia@policypartners.net or (240) 506-9325.

Optimal Oral Health for All Marylanders